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NSC BRIEFING

29 April 1954

THE COLOMBO CONFERENCE

- I. Background: Conference five South Asian prime ministers (Ceylon, India, Pakistan, Burma, Indonesia) opened Colombo 28 April. No fixed agenda.
- II. Opening Session Stresses Indochina:
  - A. Press reports conference "accepted" only part Nehru's Indochina peace plan.
    - 1. Immediate cease-fire.
    - 2. Guarantee full independence.
  - B. Rejected following:
    - 1. Direct negotiations France, Associated States, Viet Minh.
    - 2. Nonintervention agreement US, UK, Communist China, USSR.
  - C. Agreed no action adverse to progress Geneva.
  - D. New Indian draft to be presented 29 April.

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III. Reported flare-up Nehru versus Mohammed

Ali (Pakistan):

- A. Mohammed Ali suggested peace Kashmir before world problems.
- B. Nehru irritated. Reported agreed discuss Kashmir if also consider US aid to Pakistan.
- C. Mohammed Ali likely needle Nehru further Kashmir. Talks might break down into mutual accusation session Pakistan vs. India, due Nehru's sensitivity this subject.

IV. Indonesia: Reported suggest recognition Communist China which Nehru opposed. Will also call for more inclusive conference Asian-African states.

V. Probable Results:

- A. No agreement likely detailed plans action re Indochina.
- B. Revival Nehru--Ali feud could break down conference.

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C. But more probable broadly worded  
resolution Indochina, hitting  
"colonialism," urging quick peace--  
such result would save appearances,  
important all concerned.

D. Overall result could be major diplomatic  
defeat Nehru, if Pakistan and Ceylon  
hold firm anti-Communist line.

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CEYLON - HAS TOLD US WILL ATTEMPT TO WIN COUNTRIES TO  
A POSITIVE ANTI-COMMUNISM, AS OPPOSED TO  
PASSIVE ANTI-COMMUNISM OF INDIA -  
(KOTELAWALA TO VISIT US LATER)

BURMA ON THE FENCE - SUGGESTED LIAISON BETWEEN  
GENEVA AND COLOMBO - THIS REJECTED -  
WILL, IF IT CAN, BRING UP AREA ECONOMIC  
PROBLEMS.

CPYRGHT

NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE.

## Nehru-Ali Clash Marks First Colombo Session

COLOMBO, Ceylon, April 28 (P)—A bitter clash between Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Pakistan Prime Minister Mohammed Ali over Kashmir marked the opening sessions today of the five-nation conference of Asian Prime Ministers.

Informants said Mr. Nehru shouted he could tear Mr. Ali "to pieces" if the Pakistan leader raised the question here of aggression in Kashmir, the former princely state whose control is sought by both India and Pakistan.

Conference sessions are secret, but briefings are held for newspaper men. Informants said the clash between Mr. Nehru and Mr. Ali came after the latter declared it was "perhaps a little presumptuous of us to preach peace to others until we succeed in establishing mutual understanding and trust among ourselves."

### Change the Subject

Further dispute was avoided when Ceylon's Sir John Kotelawela switched the subject to the Geneva conference, which is casting a long shadow over the Asian meeting here of Prime Ministers from India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Indonesia and Burma.

As first day's formal meetings ended it was apparent the Indian delegation came to Colombo with the goal of winning approval for two of Mr. Nehru's plans: settlement of the Indo-Chinese conflict with a cease-fire the first order of business, and a proposal for halting experiments and development of hydrogen bombs and other mass destruction weapons.

Pakistan's intentions, too, appeared equally clear. Those within the meeting said Mr. Ali

is determined to avoid any embarrassment of the Geneva conference and is prepared to fight any resolution which had the appearance of interfering with the discussions of the major powers there.

Reliable sources said Ceylon is generally in agreement with this policy, partly as a result of continuing talks between Great Britain and the Ceylon government.

### Nehru Plan Opposed

Some opposition to Mr. Nehru's Indo-Chinese plan developed during the afternoon session. Pakistan, while supporting the cease-fire and independence of Indo-China, objected particularly to a clause in Mr. Nehru's proposal calling for non-intervention by the United States, Great Britain, Russia and Red China.

Mr. Ali urged the conference not to "tie the hands" of the Geneva meeting and suggested instead that South Asian leaders agree in general terms to a declaration on Indo-China and leave the details to Geneva.

The Prime Ministers failed to reach agreement on the Nehru Indo-China proposals and will continue their discussions tomorrow.